## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-12 are presently pending in the instant application. This Amendment is made to eliminate all multiple dependencies from the claims, thereby avoiding the need to pay the multiple dependent surcharge.

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Géorg Stka Reg. No. 24,491

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP Two Embarcadero Center, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 415-576-0200 Fax: 415-576-0300 Attachments JGS:sba 60047688 v1